lected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Recommendations of Malhotra Committee

80. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any final decision on the recommendations of the Malhotra Committee pertaining to disinvestment of Government equity in General Insurance Corporation (GIC) and Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC);

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether Government have decided to invite or propose to invite private sector entry into the insurance business;

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(e) whether Government have received any applications from Indian and foreign companies for entry into the Insurance Business in the country, if so, what are the details thereof; and

(f) whether Government have consulted the GIC and LIC representatives in this regard and if so, what is their reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) Under the existing law, insurance business is the exclusive privilege of the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) and the General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC) and its four subsidiary companies. There is no question of receiving any applications from any other Indian or foreign company to transact insurance business in the country.

Smuggling of Heroin

81. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whehter Government are aware that heroin smuggling into India from foreign countries and particularly from Pakistan is on the increase;

(b) what is the quantity of heroin seized during the last two years; year-wise; and

(c) what concrete and effective steps Government have taken to stop the heroin smuggling in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) Since smuggling of heroin is a clandestine activity, it cannot be said definitely whether it has increased in the country from foreign countries, particularly from Pakistan, or otherwise. However, the areas along Pakistan border in Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir, Rajasthan and coastal areas of Gujarat and Indo-Myanmar border are specially vulnerable to smuggling.

(b) Quantity of heroin seized in the country during 1994 and 1993 is 966 kgs and 1088 kgs respectively.

(c) Instructions have been issued to all the enforcement agencies to maintain the utmost vigil and step up enforcement efforts under the stringent provisions contained in NDPS Act. Training is being imparted to officers to improve their effectiveness. Vehicles and communication equipments have been provided. A part of Indo-Pak border has been fenced.